



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 20 September 2012

Top Stories

- Entergy Corp said that damage from Hurricane Isaac would cost its utilities in several States between \$400 million and \$500 million and would reduce power sales in the third quarter. – *Reuters* (See item [4](#))
- A Washington State banker who helped generate nearly \$1 billion in mortgage loans during the housing bubble pleaded guilty to submitting false loan applications and to submitting false statements to banks to obtain loans. – *Tacoma News Tribune* (See item [16](#))
- A structural failure at the busiest lock on the Mississippi River in Illinois held up more than 280 barges, and will cost the U.S. economy about \$2.4 million each day until it is repaired. – *KWMU 90.7 FM St. Louis* (See item [23](#))
- Fire damage will sideline a wastewater treatment plant in La Paz County, Arizona, for 3 months with trucks taking sewage elsewhere for treatment. – *AZInews.com* (See item [31](#))
- Many U.S. schools are not prepared for bioterrorism attacks, outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases or pandemics, a study found. – *Saint Louis University* (See item [36](#))

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Energy Sector

1. ***September 19, Occupational Health & Safety*** – (Illinois; National) **OSHA seeks to improve wind industry safety.** In conjunction with Suzlon Wind Energy Corp. and the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) is training its employees in the aspects of safety in the wind energy industry, Occupational Health & Safety reported September 19. With its Wind Response Team, OSHA looks to respond to incidents that occur specifically in this industry, specifically in and around wind turbines. Forty OSHA employees attended a 2-day training session with Suzlon and AWEA. The program was hosted by Suzlon at its facility in Elgin, Illinois. Attendees were informed on working from heights and subsequent issues such as falls and rescues, permit-related confined space entry and energy isolation.

Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2012/09/19/osha-seeks-to-improve-wind-industry-safety.aspx?admgarea=news>

2. ***September 19, NBC News*** – (National) **East Coast storms cut power to tens of thousands, trigger twister alerts.** Tornado watches were issued for much of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic September 18, part of a storm front that brought high winds and heavy rain. More than 50,000 lost power and air travel was disrupted across the region. Major cities within the tornado watches included New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. The watches also cover parts of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Airport travel was disrupted by winds throughout the day across the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, the Federal Aviation Administration said on its flight delay Web site. Some 4,000 homes and businesses lost power on Long Island, the NBC station added. In Connecticut, 15,000 customers had lost power, NBCConnecticut.com reported. Some 28,000 homes and businesses lost power September 18 in the Washington D.C. and Baltimore areas, NBCWashington.com noted. In Pennsylvania, about 24,000 customers lost power, NBCPhiladelphia.com reported.

Source: http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/09/18/13939792-east-coast-storms-cut-power-to-tens-of-thousands-trigger-twister-alerts?lite

3. ***September 19, Associated Press*** – (International) **26 killed in Mexico pipeline fire near US border.** A fire that erupted at a natural gas pipeline distribution center near Mexico's border with the United States has killed 26 people, the Associated Press reported September 19. Mexico's state-owned oil company, Petroleos Mexicanos, initially reported 10 deaths at the facility near the city of Reynosa, across from McAllen, Texas. Later, the death toll was raised to 26 maintenance workers. One man killed was run over when he rushed onto a highway running away from the facility. The fire also forced evacuations of people in nearby ranches and homes. The company said later that the blaze was extinguished in 90 minutes and the pipeline was shut off. Forty-six workers were injured.

Source: http://www.necn.com/09/19/12/26-killed-in-Mexico-pipeline-fire-near-U/landing_nation.html?&apID=6cc908fdd0774468b1a7f3dfcb1674a0

4. ***September 18, Reuters*** – (National) **Entergy estimates Hurricane Isaac damage at \$500 million.** Entergy Corp said September 18 that damage from Hurricane Isaac would cost its utilities between \$400 million and \$500 million and would reduce power sales in the third quarter. Entergy, which supplies electricity to 2.8 million customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, said Hurricane Isaac left more than 787,000 customers without power and damaged its power delivery infrastructure. Isaac, which struck the Louisiana coast with 80 mph winds August 28, ranks as the fourth worst storm in Entergy's history in terms of power outages. Distribution systems of the utilities had extensive damage, Entergy said. Preliminary estimates showed that Isaac had damaged or destroyed 4,500 poles and 2,000 transformers. The storm also knocked 95 transmission lines out of service along with 144 substations. No damage has been identified at Entergy's fossil or nuclear power plants, but detailed assessments are continuing, the company said. Entergy Louisiana's repair cost from Isaac is estimated at \$240 million to \$300 million, followed by Entergy Gulf States Louisiana at \$70 million to \$90 million; Entergy New Orleans at \$50 million to \$60 million; Entergy Mississippi at \$30 million to \$40 million, and Entergy Arkansas at \$10 million, according to a company statement.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/18/us-entergy-outlook-idUSBRE88H0NP20120918>
5. ***September 17, KCPQ 13 Tacoma*** – (Washington) **Everett police investigating remains of small explosive found tied to a power pole.** Everett, Washington police were investigating the remains of a small explosive device found tied to a power pole outside a business September 15, the Everett Herald reported. According to the Herald, someone reported hearing a blast around 8:40 p.m. in the 2400 block of Broadway. Police arrived at the scene to find a small explosive device detonated and tied to a power pole. The device caused very little damage to the pole. Detectives are investigating the explosive and the incident.
Source: <http://www.q13fox.com/news/kcpq-everett-police-investigating-remains-of-small-explosive-found-tied-to-a-power-pole-20120917,0,3174702.story>
6. ***September 17, KNSD 7 San Diego*** – (California) **SDG&E settles with feds for \$6.4M for wildfire damages.** San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) has reached a \$6.4 million settlement with the United States for damages sustained during the 2007 wildfires, NBC 7 San Diego reported September 17. The Witch Creek Wildfires of October 2007 damaged about 44,000 acres of federal land in the Cleveland National Forest. In total, the fire burned nearly 200,000 acres of land throughout San Diego County and cost about \$18 million to date, according to CalFire. SDG&E has agreed to pay \$6,429,736 in settlement damages to the federal lands, according to a U.S. attorney. The settlement represents the full amount of fire suppression costs. The fires sparked up when one of SDG&E's high-voltage power lines malfunctioned during strong winds, according to an investigation. Prior to this settlement, SDG&E also settled with the City and County of San Diego for additional damages. Combined, the blazes destroyed more than 1,300 homes, killed two people, burned ranches and farms, and disrupted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. The fire lasted about 3 weeks and was one of the largest wildfire events in the State's history.

Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/SDGE-Settles-with-Feds-for-64M-for-Wildfire-Damages-170097876.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

7. ***September 18, Long Island Newsday*** – (New York) **NY fines Target over pesticide sales.** Target Corp. paid a civil penalty after the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) discovered the company had been selling two pesticides banned on Long Island, Newsday reported September 18. Target paid the \$43,850 fine September 12 after a 2011 investigation found numerous stores had stocked Bayer Advanced 2 in 1 Systemic Rose & Flower Care and Bayer Advanced Complete Insect Killer. The State has specifically prohibited using, selling, or distributing these and certain other pesticides to protect underground aquifers that supply the region with water. Since Long Island has permeable soil and a sole-source aquifer, “we’re a little bit more conservative in allowing pesticides on this area,” said a DEC spokeswoman. Target removed the items from stores when notified by the DEC, she said. The investigation found 1,754 units of the pesticides were sold. Target was found to be in violation of the State’s Environmental Conservation Law requiring registration every 2 years of pesticides used, distributed, or sold in the State, the department said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/long-island/transportation/ny-fines-target-over-pesticide-sales-1.4015319>

8. ***September 18, WSBT 22 South Bend*** – (Indiana) **Chemical fire forces Hazmat crews into action in Elkhart.** HAZMAT crews responded to a fire at an Elkhart, Indiana chemical firm that burned one employee, September 18. The fire was reported in the mixing room of Superior Oil, which distributes fiberglass and resins used in the RV and truck part business. The building was evacuated and several fire departments were called in. Superior’s vice president of operations said an employee was filling a portable tank with flammable solvent, causing a flash fire. A suppression foam firefighting system extinguished it. One employee suffered burns to his hands and was taken to a hospital. He was wearing a fire protective suit. The building did not appear damaged. HAZMAT was called because foam mixed with solvent and fumes had built up in the building. An unknown amount of solvent spilled, but was contained in the building. Officials said a private contractor would be called in to help with cleanup. Employees in surrounding buildings in the industrial area were asked not to leave for about 2.5 hours because of the concern over fumes.

Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/wsbt-chemical-fire-forces-hazmat-crews-into-action-in-elkhart-20120918,0,1837943.story>

9. ***September 18, KPLC 7 Lake Charles*** – (Louisiana) **Two injured in Friday fire at Westlake plant.** Two employees at Westlake Polymers in Westlake, Louisiana, were injured in a plant fire September 14, KPLC 7 Lake Charles reported September 18. A

Westlake official said one employee suffered second-degree burns and was hospitalized, but was expected to make a full recovery. He said the other worker suffered first-degree burns and was treated at a hospital and released. The problem began when two operators brought down a polyethylene line, the Westlake official said. Three hours later, they began cleaning the line by using a nitrogen purge to clear it of any ethylene, which is a flammable gas, he said. Residual gas created a flash fire when the workers turned on the valve. The fire was extinguished within 45 minutes by the plant's Westlake Fire Brigade, he said, noting there were no effects outside of the plant and the physical damage was minimal. Ethylene gas is used to produce polyethylene, which is used to make non-toxic plastic pellets used in bread bags, toys, and medical containers, the Westlake official said.

Source: <http://www.kplctv.com/story/19577448/two-injured-in-friday-fire-at-westlake-plant>

10. ***September 18, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) DEQ fines company over leaks in Isaac.** Louisiana regulators issued a \$12,189 fine against a chemical terminal flooded during Hurricane Isaac because it did not notify authorities fast enough about chemical releases. September 18, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) said it issued the fine against Stolthaven New Orleans LLC, a company that operates a chemical terminal along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish. It said the chemicals — 1-octene and ethyl acrylate — leaked out August 30, but the company told DEQ about it September 1. A company is supposed to alert authorities within 1 hour of a release. DEQ said more fines may be issued against Stolthaven. Cleanup continued at the facility September 18. The firm has reported thousands of gallons of chemicals leaked from tanks damaged by storm surge.

Source: <http://www.wafb.com/story/19578870/deq-fines-company-over-leaks-in-isaac>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

11. ***September 18, Bloomberg News* – (International) Turkey security forces seize radioactive material, Anatolia says.** Turkey's paramilitary police seized radioactive materials with an estimated market value of \$1.3 million, the Anatolia news agency said September 18. The state-run agency said two tubes of cesium-137, a highly poisonous radioactive chemical, were seized near the northern town of Espiye in Giresun province.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-09-18/turkey-security-forces-seize-radioactive-material-anatolia-says>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. ***September 19, Global Security Newswire*** – (Tennessee) **Y-12 firm sees no fraud on guard exams.** An internal probe by the security contractor for the Y-12 National Security Complex found no “intentional wrongdoing” by personnel linked to the wrongful dissemination of quiz and response information on defensive procedures at the Oak Ridge, Tennessee nuclear weapons facility, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported September 19. The Department of Energy’s Health, Safety, and Security Office found unauthorized duplicates of exam sheets and correct quiz responses in a guard vehicle at the site in late August. The Energy Department provided the details in advance of administering the quiz to ensure they conformed to Y-12 operations. The discovery prompted worries over a possible effort to illicitly bolster testing performance among workers for WSI-Oak Ridge, a division of G4S Government Solutions.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/y-12-protection-firm-sees-no-intentional-exam-violation/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. ***September 19, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission*** – (Georgia; National) **SEC charges Atlanta-based adviser with operating Ponzi-like scheme involving private investment funds.** The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) September 19 announced charges against a private fund manager and his Atlanta-based investment advisory firm for defrauding investors in a purported “fund-of-funds” and then trying to hide trading losses by creating new private funds to make money to pay back the original fund investors in Ponzi-like fashion. The SEC is seeking an emergency court order to freeze the assets of the manager and Summit Wealth Management Inc. and prevent further investor losses, which are estimated to be \$17 million among approximately 200 clients. The manager told investors his fund was investing their money in other funds and investment products with minimal exposure to risks, while he actually invested the money in stocks. Those stocks led to losses that he tried to cover up by creating new funds and transferring money from new to old funds to cover up his losses. The hedge funds were Private Credit Opportunities Fund LLC and Asset Diversification Fund LP.

Source: <http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2012/2012-192.htm>

14. ***September 18, Help Net Security*** – (International) **Bogus ‘Refund Pending’ emails targeting PayPal customers.** Fake PayPal notifications about a bogus refund are hitting inboxes around the world, trying to trick users into following the offered link and supposedly log into their accounts to receive it. The link will take users to a page that looks like PayPal’s log-in page, but is actually a fake one mimicking PayPal’s, and all the information submitted gets forwarded directly to the phishers behind the scheme.

They will then likely use it to hijack the victim's PayPal and gain entrance to other online accounts.

Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=13615>

15. *September 18, WLNE 6 New Bedford* – (Rhode Island; Massachusetts) **'Bearded Bandit' hits Pawtucket Credit Union in East Providence.** The Pawtucket Credit Union in East Providence, Rhode Island, was robbed September 18, and police said the robber matched the description of the "Bearded Bandit". The bandit is wanted for eight other robberies in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Police said the man told a teller that he had a weapon, but did not display it. When the teller gave him money, the bandit left the bank on foot with an indeterminate amount of cash.

Source: <http://www.abc6.com/story/19577616/bearded-bandit-hits-pawtucket-credit-union-in-east-providence>

16. *September 18, Tacoma News Tribune* – (Washington; National) **Ex-Pierce Commercial Bank VP pleads guilty to loan-fraud charges.** A Puyallup, Washington banker whose prodigious generation of home loan applications made him one of the nation's top mortgage loan originators during the housing bubble pleaded guilty September 18 to two federal charges of conspiracy to submit false loan applications and submitting false statements to a financial institution to obtain a loan. The ultimate failure of dozens of those loans led to the demise of Tacoma's Pierce Commercial Bank under a mountain of millions of dollars in defaulted debt. The former senior vice president at Pierce Commercial Bank admitted he had fabricated employment, financial, and housing records to ensure loans would be funded. According to court documents, the man and his associates, operating semi-autonomously from Pierce Commercial Bank as PC Home Loans, generated nearly \$1 billion in home loan applications for the bank over several years. Two of his associates already pleaded guilty to lesser charges, and the third was scheduled for a change-of-plea hearing. The four were indicted in August 2011 after a lengthy investigation by the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Postal Service.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/09/18/2301092/ex-pierce-commercial-bank-vp-pleads.html>

17. *September 18, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation* – (California) **Top managers of 'Direct Money Source' arrested in major foreclosure prevention scheme targeting homeowners in distress.** The top two managers at a Westwood, California-based mortgage brokerage were arrested on federal charges relating to a foreclosure avoidance and equity-skimming scheme that targeted distressed homeowners, said a statement from the FBI September 18. According to an indictment, the scheme led several mortgage lenders to disburse more than \$15 million in loan proceeds — with nearly half of that being lost to the fraud conspiracy. Federal authorities arrested the principal owner and the second-in-charge at Direct Money Source (DMS), a mortgage brokerage that allegedly operated as an equity-skimming operation that took possession of distressed homeowners' equity under false pretenses and also defrauded mortgage lenders. A third defendant who worked at DMS surrendered. The fourth defendant named in the indictment is a fugitive being sought by authorities. A federal grand jury

indictment charged all four defendants with conspiracy, wire fraud, loan fraud, and aggravated identity theft. The principal owner and second-in-charge were additionally charged with money laundering.

Source: <http://www.loansafe.org/top-managers-of-direct-money-source-arrested-in-major-foreclosure-prevention-scheme-targeting-homeowners-in-distress>

18. *September 18, Bloomberg News* – (International) **SEC claims Australia man ran \$53 million forex investment fraud.** U.S. regulators accused an Australia man of raising at least \$53 million from investors with false claims that he ran a group of elite foreign-exchange traders who could generate 78 percent annual returns, Bloomberg News reported September 18. The man and his Brisbane, Australia-based firm, Investment Intelligence Corp., promised investors “unlimited” passive income from his strategy of making only a few select trades each month with no more than 3 percent of an investors’ capital at risk in any given trade, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said in a lawsuit. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission filed a parallel lawsuit. The man’s fraud came to light in May, when investors discovered their accounts had lost 63 percent of their value after about 200 trades had occurred in a 2-day period, the SEC said. Following the losses, the man issued a white paper to investors, encouraging them to add more capital to their accounts to “recoup the losses faster,” according to the complaint.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-09-18/sec-claims-australia-man-ran-53-million-forex-investment-fraud.html>

19. *September 18, NBCConnecticut.com* – (Connecticut; National; International) **7 held, 2 hunted in \$165,000 lottery scam targeting elderly.** Seven people were arrested and warrants were issued for two others in a lottery scam based in Fairfield County, Connecticut, that targeted elderly people across the United States and caused losses in excess of \$165,000, NBCConnecticut.com reported September 18. Those involved were charged with money laundering, racketeering, larceny, and conspiracy. Police in Stamford so far identified 31 victims from across the United States, mostly between 80 and 90 years old. Police said the ring contacted victims by telephone or letter, telling them that they had won a prize. Before collecting any supposed winnings, the victims were told that they would have to pay taxes or fees and send money through Western Union or U.S. Postal Service money orders. The money was then transferred to Costa Rica.

Source: http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/09/18/13931551-7-held-2-hunted-in-165000-lottery-scam-targeting-elderly?lite

20. *September 18, Reuters* – (International) **Bank of America website slows; Prophet film threat made.** Bank of America Corp’s online banking Web site suffered intermittent problems September 18 amid threats on the Internet that a group was planning to launch cyber attacks on the bank and other U.S. targets to protest a film that stirred unrest in the Middle East. Someone claiming to represent “cyber fighters of Izz ad-din Al qassam” said it would attack the Bank of America and the New York Stock Exchange in a statement posted on pastebin.com. Bank of America said its Web site was available but some customers might experience occasional slowness. The New York Stock Exchange declined to comment. Bank of America customers reached by

Reuters in New York, Georgia, Ohio, and Michigan said they could not access the Web site.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/customers-reporting-bofa-website-problems-183410329--sector.html>

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Transportation Sector

21. *September 18, Associated Press* – (New York) **LIRR escalator where woman died reopens.** The Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) escalator in Lindenhurst, New York, reopened, 6 months after a woman died after her clothes got entangled in its treads, the Associated Press reported September 18. Long Island Newsday said the escalator was reopened September 17 after a major overhaul that included replacement and refurbishment of major components. Sensors also were installed every 10 feet. When they detect something caught in the machinery, the system will shut down. The accident resulted in the LIRR reviewing all 19 of its escalators. Eleven were taken out of service for several weeks and six remain out of service. They are expected to be back in service in November.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP0b61006f4eae4fb29e51032bc7c47cf7.html>

22. *September 18, Wall Street Journal* – (Connecticut) **Storms halt trains in Connecticut.** Storm-related power outages halted five eastbound Metro-North trains near Stamford, Connecticut, September 18, stranding as many as 5,000 riders onboard and cascading delays along the rest of the commuter rail line. The trains stopped after the overhead catenary wires grounded out, said a spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The likely cause of the grounding: contact with trees, which were whipped by passing wind and thunderstorms. Metro-North catenary workers were working to restore power to the stopped train. Delays on the railroad's New Haven Line were around 30 minutes. Service resumed by September 18, with residual delays.

Source: <http://blogs.wsj.com/metropolis/2012/09/18/storms-halt-trains-in-connecticut/>

23. *September 18, KWMU 90.7 FM St. Louis* – (Illinois) **Emergency repair at Lock 27 has barge traffic at a standstill.** A structural failure at Lock 27, which is located near Granite City, Illinois, caused major shipping problems September 18 on the Mississippi River. There were more than 280 barges at a standstill holding the equivalent of 16,000 semi-trucks worth of cargo. A barrier called a protection cell that is used to keep barges from bumping into the lock itself ruptured, spilling rocks into the waterway and blocking shipping lanes. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman said it could take 24 hours or more for the problem to be fixed. Lock 27 is the busiest on the Mississippi River, and the spokesman said it costs the larger economy around \$2.4 million each day it is closed. A Coast Guard spokesman said a narrow shipping lane brought on by the drought is an added concern. He said there was no imminent threat to public safety, but said they are especially worried about the cargo on some barges.

Source: <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/emergency-repair-lock-27-has-barge-traffic-standstill>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *September 18, KCPQ 13 Tacoma* – (Washington) **4 postal service employees mysteriously fall ill in Lake Stevens.** More than 30 postal service employees were examined by paramedics September 18 at a U.S. Postal Service Annex in Lake Stevens, Washington, after several workers fell ill. Four workers were taken to a hospital for evaluation after complaining of feeling sick. The annex was evacuated. Crews trained in handling hazardous materials were called to search the building, but nothing was found. The sick employees showed symptoms of nausea and weakness. Since the initial incident there were no other complaints. Crews are still working to determine the source of the sickness.
Source: <http://www.q13fox.com/news/kcpq-4-lake-stevens-postal-service-employees-fall-ill-20120918,0,1470476.story>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

25. *September 19, Aurora Beacon-News* – (Illinois) **Salmonella outbreak linked to Batavia restaurant.** The Kane County Health Department confirmed it is conducting a food-borne illness investigation at Aliano's Ristorante, a downtown Batavia, Illinois Italian restaurant. The health communications coordinator for the health department said September 18 that there have been six cases of salmonella with common links that go back to Aliano's. "One case was hospitalized and has since been released. The others did not require hospitalization," the communications coordinator said. The cases were not all from the same dining party and were not reported on the same day.
Source: <http://beaconnews.suntimes.com/news/15229863-418/salmonella-outbreak-linked-to-batavia-restaurant.html>

26. *September 18, Food Safety News* – (National; International) **Canadian ground beef recall extends to U.S.** Some of the ground beef products recalled by a Canadian firm the week of September 17 for possible E. coli contamination were sold to processors in the United States, announced a U.S. distributor September 17. The potentially contaminated ground beef products, manufactured by XL Foods of Alberta, Canada, were tested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture when entering the United States at the Canadian border and were found to contain E. coli O157:H7, according to a press release from US Foods. The affected meat was sold by XL Foods to at least two large U.S. processors, including Morasch Meats of Portland, Oregon, and Cattleman's (a US

Foods brand), according to the director of regulatory compliance at US Foods, which buys ground beef from these processors and distributes it to retail locations. US Foods distributed the XL Foods ground beef from three Pacific-region centers. US Foods said it started to contact customers who purchased products subject to the recall.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/09/canadian-ground-beef-recall-extends-to-us/#.UFnOwZH2q70>

27. *September 18, Food Safety News* – (National; International) **Cheese maker put on import alert after Listeria outbreak.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration placed Italian company Fattorie Chiarappa on import alert after the company's product was linked to a multistate Listeria outbreak, reported Food Safety News September 18. All cheese from this company will be barred from entering through ports of entry unless the company can show that it is not contaminated. To date, 14 people in 11 States have contracted Listeria infections thought to be linked to Ricotta Salata Frescolina cheese distributed by Forever Cheese Inc of Long Island City, New York. Whole Foods and one Washington State distributor have recalled the cheese in response to the investigation into the outbreak.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/09/cheese-maker-put-on-import-alert-after-listeria-outbreak/#.UFnOypH2q70>

28. *September 18, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (National) **United Salad Co. initiates voluntary recall of products that contains mangoes.** United Salad Co. initiated a voluntary, precautionary recall on various products it distributed to retail supermarkets that contain mangoes associated with the Food Source Tomorrow's Tropical recall with the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella, the Food and Drug Administration reported September 17. The recalled products were distributed to retailers and supermarkets from September 1 to September 17 in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The company directly notified all customers who received the recalled product and requested removal from store shelves.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm319752.htm>

29. *September 18, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* – (Indiana; Texas) **FreshLine/Caito Foods Service recalls limited quantity of expired fresh-cut mango products due to possible health risk.** FreshLine/Caito Foods Service of Indianapolis, Indiana, initiated a voluntary recall of a limited quantity of expired products that contain fresh-cut mangoes and were distributed to retail supermarkets due to the potential risk that the mangoes may contain Salmonella, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported September 17. This is associated with FoodSource's (Edinburg, Texas) recall of mangoes sourced from Agricola Daniella. The FDA has placed Agricola Daniella on the Import Alert Listing. FreshLine directly notified all retailers who received the recalled product. The affected products have printed code dates ranging from August 4 to September 16.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm319818.htm>

30. *September 17, Forum* – (California) **Students report possible food poisoning.** According to Claremont McKenna College (CMC) resident assistants and other reports from students, as many as 20 CMC students showed symptoms of food

poisoning the weekend of September 15. A resident assistant said he could confirm seven cases of a violent “stomach bug” among students, and at least two went to the hospital. Alcohol is not believed to be involved in any of these cases. At least three students reported eating an avocado chicken sandwich served at the dining hall for lunch September 14.

Source: <http://cmcforum.com/news/09172012-students-report-possible-food-poisoning>

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Water Sector

31. *September 19, AZnews.com* – (Arizona) **Sewage plant to be offline for 3 months.** The Buckskin Sanitary District in the Parker Strip section of La Paz County, Arizona, must transport sewage for treatment elsewhere because its wastewater treatment plant was heavily damaged by fire, AZnews.com reported September 19. The September 13 fire destroyed the plant inside, said the district manager. “It’s offline.” He said fire insurance will cover repairs that will take 90-120 days to complete. Sewage flowing into the plant was being pumped into 2 trucks making up to 20 trips a day to transport the material about 5 miles for treatment at the Joint Venture facility. Buckskin District customers were asked to conserve to minimize the cost of the temporary pump and transport operation. A HAZMAT crew from the Lake Havasu City Fire Department assisted the Buckskin Fire Department because of the presence of containers of chlorine used in sewage treatment. “The HAZMAT team members entered the building and determined the chlorine gas cylinders were still leaking,” said Lake Havasu City Fire Department news release. One Lake Havasu City firefighter was injured when he was overcome by fumes and was transported to a hospital where he stayed overnight for observation.

Source: <http://www.azinews.com/2012/09/19/sewage-plant-to-be-offline-for-3-months/>

32. *September 17, WSYR 9 Syracuse* – (New York) **Water main break prompts boil water advisory in Onondaga County.** Residents in Lysander, New York, in the areas of Timber Bank Parkway, Long Shadow Drive, Bramble Run, Summers Gate Drive, Forrester Watch Run, Hammocks Drive, and Morning Mist Drive were without water due to a water main break in the area September 17. Repairs were underway and service was expected to be restored within 24 hours, however, due to the length of the outage, officials issued a boil water advisory for the impacted areas.

Source: <http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/Water-main-break-prompts-boil-water-advisory-in/05ZxLXvKuUGLJAd2kinJWQ.cspx>

For more stories, see items [7](#) and [55](#)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

See item [36](#)

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Government Facilities Sector

33. *September 19, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Man arrested in Louisiana State University bomb threat case.** A man has been arrested in connection with a bomb threat that led to an evacuation of Louisiana State University September 17, school police said. The man, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was arrested September 18 for communicating false information of a planned bombing, police said. The school, located in Baton Rouge, evacuated buildings after authorities received a call saying there were multiple bombs on campus and that they would detonate in 2 hours. Students were allowed back in buildings hours later after authorities searched the campus. LSU has about 29,000 students and 4,700 faculty and staff members.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/19/us-usa-louisiana-bomb-idUSBRE88I10220120919>

34. *September 18, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Suspicious white powder found in letter at Palm Beach County Courthouse not a threat.** Suspicious white powder found in a letter that forced the evacuation of the Palm Beach County, Florida courthouse September 18 is not a threat, said a spokesperson for the Palm Beach County sheriff's office. The courthouse was evacuated after the powder was found in a letter in the courthouse mail room. Jurors and court customers were told the courthouse would be closed for an indefinite period of time and people were not allowed to re-enter until fire-rescue officials cleared the building.
Source: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/suspicious-white-powder-found-at-county-courthouse/nSDrT/>

35. *September 18, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Dorm evacuated after bomb threat at Arkansas State Univ. deemed safe, reopens; arrest made.** A dormitory that was evacuated following a bomb threat at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas, has been deemed safe. A university spokeswoman said the threat came in September 18 targeting the University Hall dorm, which houses nearly 400 students. Residents were evacuated, as was the nearby International Student Center. Campus police conducted a room-by-room search with bomb-sniffing dogs, though no evidence of a bomb was found. Students were allowed to return several hours later. The university spokeswoman said a local man accused of making the threat has been arrested. School officials do not believe the incident is related to bomb threats that sparked recent campus-wide evacuations at Louisiana State University, the University of Texas in Austin, and the University of North Dakota in Fargo.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/university-dormitory-evacuated-at-arkansas-state-after-bomb-threat-arrest-made/2012/09/18/c1bfd0ae-01f1-11e2-bbf0-e33b4ee2f0e8_story.html

36. *September 17, Saint Louis University* – (National) **Majority of US schools not ready for next pandemic, SLU researchers say.** Many U.S. schools are not prepared for bioterrorism attacks, outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases or pandemics, despite the recent 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic that resulted in more than 18,000 deaths worldwide, Saint Louis University researchers say. The study surveyed about 2,000 nurses working in elementary, middle, and high schools across 26 States. The findings reveal that only 48 percent of schools address pandemic preparedness and only 40 percent of schools have updated their plans since the 2009 H1N1 pandemic that spread illnesses in more than 214 countries. Published in the American Journal of Infection Control, the study also found that 44 percent of schools do not participate in community surveillance that tracks the presence of a disease based upon symptoms reported by area residents. These efforts are coordinated through local public health departments that assess indicators of biological threats. In order to have a regular and strong pandemic preparedness program, the study's lead researcher suggests that school nurses should be involved in building and assessing the plan.

Source: <http://slu.edu/x67767.xml>

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Emergency Services Sector

37. *September 19, Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **911 system back up; failure linked to IT system.** Milwaukee County, Wisconsin's 9-1-1 emergency call system, which went down September 18, was back up and running September 19, the Milwaukee County sheriff's captain said. He said the failure of the 9-1-1 emergency call system for about 8 hours has been traced to the county's information technology system, which also shut down the county's email system, phone system, and Internet systems, as well. Emergency calls from Milwaukee County were rerouted to the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department and two deputies were dispatched to Waukesha to handle Milwaukee calls so as not to overtax Waukesha, he said.

Source: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/911-system-back-up-failure-linked-to-it-system-7m6tvsh-170324706.html>

38. *September 18, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Stabbing death leads to riot at Salinas Valley State Prison.** A riot by 30 inmates at Salinas Valley State Prison in Soledad, California, began with the killing of one in the yard and left four other inmates injured, prison officials said September 17. The riot broke out September 15 when two inmates stabbed a third with improvised weapons, known as shanks, according to a report from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. That prompted a fight among 30 inmates. Officers used pepper spray and other non-lethal weapons to end the riot and discovered 13 inmate-made weapons in the follow-up to the fight. Corrections officials named two inmates as suspects in the initial stabbing.

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/09/stabbing-death-leads-to-riot-at-salinas-valley-state-prison.html>

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Information Technology Sector

39. *September 19, Softpedia* – (International) **Victims of phishing attacks unaware their websites are compromised, APWG finds.** A study by the Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG) reveals many Web site owners whose domains have been compromised by phishers are unaware that they are victims of a cybercriminal operation. In order to ensure their phishing campaigns do not get interrupted by security solutions providers, cybercriminals often take over legitimate hosts on which they plant their malicious Web pages. The results of the study show attackers are still mostly targeting environments that rely on Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP. The biggest concern is that in 80 percent of the cases, the site's owners are unaware they are part of a criminal operation until a third party notifies them. In 40 percent of cases, phishing pages are removed from sites within 24 hours after they were planted. Close to 60 percent of the respondents claimed to have taken down the malicious Web sites within 2-3 days. Most individuals who experienced such incidents do not know much about how they became victims.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Victims-of-Phishing-Attacks-Unaware-Their-Websites-Are-Compromised-APWG-Finds-293391.shtml>

40. *September 19, The Register* – (International) **New vicious UEFI bootkit vuln found for Windows 8.** Security researchers discovered security shortcomings in Windows 8 that create a means to infect the upcoming operating system with rootkit-style malware. Italian security consultants ITSEC discovered the security hole following an analysis of the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI), a successor to the legacy BIOS firmware interface, that Microsoft began fully supporting with 64-bit versions of Windows 7. ITSEC analyzed the UEFI platform now that Microsoft ported old BIOS and MBR's boot loader to the new UEFI technology in Windows 8. A senior security researcher at ITSEC used the research to create what is seen as the first UEFI bootkit targeting Windows 8. The proof-of-concept malware is able to defeat Windows 8's Kernel Patch Protection and Driver Signature Enforcement policy. The UEFI boot loader developed by the researcher overwrites the legitimate Windows 8 UEFI bootloader, bypassing security defenses in the process.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/09/19/win8_rootkit/

41. *September 18, Ars Technica* – (International) **Microsoft pledges temporary fix for critical IE bug under attack.** Microsoft plans to release a temporary fix for a critical Internet Explorer (IE) vulnerability that attackers are exploiting to install malicious software when unsuspecting end users visit booby-trapped Web sites. Microsoft's announcement September 18 that it will make a temporary patch available, known as a Fixit, in the next few days came as a security researcher spotted three more Web sites that exploited the vulnerability.

Source: <http://arstechnica.com/security/2012/09/microsoft-pledges-fix-for-critical-internet-explorer-bug/>

42. *September 18, Threatpost* – (International) **Grum botnet attempts another comeback, fails again.** The Grum botnet, which Dutch authorities and security researchers took offline earlier during the summer, made a second, unsuccessful attempt at a comeback the weekend of September 15 when the bot herders stood up two new command-and-control (C&C) servers in Turkey. The revival was short-lived however, and both C&Cs were taken offline. After spending months, or in some cases, years, building up their networks of infected machines and carefully choosing C&C server locations, bot herders are reluctant to let go of their creations even in the face of serious attention from law enforcement.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/grum-botnet-attempts-another-comeback-fails-again-091812

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Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

43. *September 18, San Antonio Express-News* – (Texas) **KLRN is off the air for some.** An estimated 30 percent of local public television viewers in San Antonio have not been able to watch KLRN 9 San Antonio for several days because of a weather-related outage, San Antonio Express-News reported September 18. Engineers have been working around the clock to restore the signal, which originally was knocked out by storm damage to microwave equipment atop the station's broadcast tower. A temporary fix could be in place the week of September 17, said the KLRN 9 San Antonio vice president of communications. She does not expect a permanent solution until September 24 at the earliest because the parts needed likely would not arrive until then.
Source: http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/KLRN-is-off-the-air-for-some-3875745.php

44. *September 18, SecurityNewsDaily* – (National) **Hacked touch tones crash phone networks, steal data.** According to one security researcher, interactive voice response systems (IVRs) — the ones people use to check and store voicemail and the ones people interact with when they call the bank — are so insecure that they could be tricked into spitting out sensitive information or taken down completely with just a single phone call. “No banks or organizations are testing IVRs because they think the systems are secure, but in reality, they are not. No firewall or CAPTCHAs monitor voice traffic,” said a spokesman who works for security company iSight Partners. He explained that when a system’s audio processing algorithms are fed strange DTMF (dual-tone multi-frequency) signals, it can cause the entire system to behave strangely

or crash calls.

Source: <http://www.securitynewsdaily.com/2289-phone-hack-data-dump.html>

45. *September 18, Reuters* – (National) **T-Mobile USA, RIM resolve issue that hurt some BlackBerry users.** Research In Motion Ltd said September 18 a service disruption that affected Internet browsing for some BlackBerry users on T-Mobile USA's network had been resolved. T-Mobile September 18 said some of its BlackBerry smartphone users were unable to use the device for emails or Internet browsing. The partial service disruption was limited to customers of the BlackBerry 9900 and did not affect phone call services and text messaging, according to T-Mobile USA, a unit of Deutsche Telekom.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-rt-us-researchinmotion-tmobileusabre88h18x-20120918,0,4103378.story>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

46. *September 19, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Generator fire forces evacuation of DoubleTree hotel in Allston.** Boston firefighters evacuated hundreds of guests from the DoubleTree hotel in the Allston neighborhood after a generator fire knocked out the building's power, the Boston Globe reported September 19. The fire broke out in a generator room on the second floor, officials said. Electric panels and diesel fuel caught fire, and firefighters worked with building staff to cut the fuel supply. The hotel was at capacity, and the 400 guests were taken by Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority buses to another hotel. The fire cut power to smoke alarms and other safety systems, as well as the elevators. Firefighters went room by room and used master keys to make sure all guests got out safely. Authorities inspected the generator room where the fire broke out, and the hotel's electrical contractor and building engineer were on scene assessing damage and rerouting power to the hotel, officials said.
Source: <http://www.boston.com/metrodesk/2012/09/19/generator-fire-forces-evacuation-doubletree-hotel-allston/nA0krxzZFPZqEumomZhKCO/story.html>

47. *September 19, Associated Press* – (Maryland) **Molotov cocktails blamed for Baltimore fires.** Baltimore police said Molotov cocktails are to blame for fires at an apartment building that injured more than a half-dozen people. A police spokesman said Molotov cocktails were found in a garden-style apartment building and a nearby northeast Baltimore residence September 19. He said fires at the two buildings injured about seven or eight people, though none of the injuries is believed to be serious. He said there was no evidence that it was a hate crime, but that detectives were pursuing other theories. Police canvassed the area following the attack. Detectives do not yet have any suspects and were not sure of a motive. Most of the 12 units in the apartment building were severely damaged by the fire.

Source:

http://www.foxbaltimore.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.md/3b4a17fc-www.foxbaltimore.com.shtml

48. *September 18, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Damaged gas line in Layton causes evacuations.** Several businesses and residences in Layton, Utah, were evacuated September 18 after a construction crew accidentally damaged a natural gas line while digging. A Questar Gas spokesman said crews had to pinch the line at both sides of the damaged portion and dig a hole in a third spot to keep gas from feeding into an intersecting line as well. In the meantime, six businesses in two nearby buildings and residents of two duplexes, all of which received natural gas from the damaged line, were evacuated while crews began repairs. The spokesman said the last of the remaining gas in the damaged line dissipated around 3 hours after the initial call, allowing crews to start repairing the line. Around 4 hours later Questar had finished the repairs, filled in the holes, and lifted the evacuation. Questar also responded briefly to a report of a natural gas smell coming from the cafeteria of Washington Elementary School, which caused a brief evacuation of the school. Firefighters who responded found the building was safe and let students back in shortly after the evacuation, said a Salt Lake City fire department spokesman.
Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/54919033-78/gas-damaged-crews-questar.html.csp>

49. *September 18, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Improvised explosive device found in vehicle.** A bomb was found in a parked vehicle outside a Clinton county, Michigan, business. The Clinton County sheriff's office said in a release that the improvised explosive device was left September 18 on an employee's dashboard at ALR Trailers in Bingham Township, north of Lansing. Deputies were called to the business September 19 and determined that two of the employee's personal vehicles had been broken into and vandalized. Authorities said a State police bomb squad made the improvised explosive device "safe." A suspect in the case is believed to have fled the State.
Source: http://wwmt.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.mi/2a4a0bc3-www.wwmt.com.shtml

50. *September 18, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Arrest ends 9-hour Bloomington apartment standoff.** A suspect was arrested September 18 in Bloomington, Minnesota, ending a 9-hour standoff with police outside his apartment building. The suspect was charged with probable cause burglary and was treated for an arm injury that he suffered when he fell while running from police, said the authorities. The standoff resulted in street closures and the evacuation of some residents. A passerby and drivers reported that a laser light was being pointed at them from inside a condemned house, and verbal threats were heard. "The concern was that it was a laser attached to a weapon," the Bloomington deputy police chief said. When several rounds of tear gas were fired at the house, police said the suspect ran to an apartment building. Other residents of the apartment building were evacuated. Police forced the apartment door and apprehended the suspect, who was alone. Several laser light devices were found during a search of the apartment. During the standoff, three blocks in the vicinity were closed. School buses were rerouted.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/west/170176106.html?refer=y>

51. *September 18, Abilene Reporter-News* – (Texas) **Abilene blaze that destroyed 2 businesses, church took hours to put out.** A two-alarm fire at a commercial building in Abilene, Texas, September 18 that destroyed two businesses and a storefront church took fire crews more than 3 hours to subdue. A spokesman for the Abilene Fire Department said the blaze is believed to have started inside Carolina Upholstery then quickly spread to an adjoining business and church inside the small commercial strip. Local streets and several blocks were closed to traffic while the fire was being fought. Chemicals in the upholstery shop and custom hat and leathers shop caused excessive smoke and posed a challenge for fire crews, who first tried to extinguish the blaze by spraying water from ladders above the building, then used foam. Firefighters on the ground encountered intense fire and only were able to make a limited interior advance before the roof began to collapse.
Source: <http://www.reporternews.com/news/2012/sep/18/blaze-that-destroyed-2-businesses-church-took-to/>

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

52. *September 19, Portland Oregonian* – (Oregon; Washington) **Firefighter dies after battling Washington wildfire, Oregon blazes continue burning.** A firefighter died after falling ill while helping battle a blaze north of Wenatchee, Washington, officials said September 18, as crews struggled to contain dozens of wildfires throughout the State and Oregon. The timber faller became ill on the fire line September 17 and was transported to a hospital, where he died that evening, authorities said. The Wenatchee complex has torched nearly 35,500 acres in Chelan County, Washington, September 17. The fire was 22 percent contained. The Washington governor extended an emergency order for all counties east of the Cascades, which ensures continued air support from the Washington National Guard and extends a burn ban through September 24. Smoke from the growing Pole Creek fire outside Sisters has affected air quality to the west and south, including in the Portland area. The Pole Creek fire extended to 17,500 acres September 17 and was 20 percent contained. Elsewhere in Oregon, the Cache Creek fire, burning in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, was 90 percent contained after burning almost 73,700 acres. In Washington, the Cascade Creek fire has covered 7,000 acres in Klickitat County, and was 40 percent contained. The Okanogan complex was 18 percent contained after burning near Carlton. Flames have burned more than 5,000 acres.
Source: http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2012/09/firefighter_dies_battling_wash.html

53. *September 19, Chico Enterprise-Record* – (California) **Cops raid marijuana grow site.** Butte County and U.S. Forest Service agents raided an illegal marijuana grow September 18, confiscating 1,271 plants from California's Plumas National Forest, northeast of Oroville near Berry Creek. The plants had an estimated value of \$1.9 million, said a spokesman for the Forest Service. One man was arrested with a handgun

during the raid, though there may have been others who got away. An agent said the camp setup was typical of what law enforcement officers are finding at marijuana grows within National Forest land. The Forest Service spokesman also voiced concern that chemical got into the water and soil. It appeared the growers piped water to the marijuana grow from Bean Creek.

Source: http://www.chicoer.com/breakingnews/ci_21579295/cops-raid-marijuana-grow-site

54. ***September 18, KTVB 7 Boise – (Idaho) Volunteer firefighter charged with starting destructive wildfire.*** A volunteer firefighter with the Clear Creek Fire Department was accused of intentionally starting a wildfire that has charred 250 acres and destroyed one home near the Robie Creek area, KTVB 7 Boise reported September 18. Sheriff's deputies arrested the man September 17 as he was actively fighting the Karney Fire. It was said that he confessed to starting the fire during questioning. He is now in the Ada County Jail. The Boise County Sheriff's Office reports the Karney Fire started September 17, and grew overnight. By September 18, the fire continued to grow after jumping a fire line and burning close to two homes in the Robie Creek area, but firefighters managed to keep those homes safe. The flames were threatening around 100 homes near the Robie Creek and Wilderness Ranch communities northeast of Boise. Officials said 80 homes in the area have been evacuated. The Karney Fire is only 15 percent contained at this point. The Red Cross set up an aid station at the Idaho City High School.

Source: <http://www.ktvb.com/news/Suspect-accused-of-starting-Wilderness-Ranch-wildfire-170186686.html>

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Dams Sector

55. ***September 19, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal – (Texas) Feral hogs, wildlife blamed for erosion problem at Lake Alan Henry.*** Feral hogs and deer are creating an erosion problem at Lake Alan Henry's earthen dam that officials in Lubbock, Texas, said will cost up to \$4 million to repair. September 18, the mayor said irrigated green grass along the dry side of the earthen John T. Montford Dam has proven irresistible to wildlife looking for food in the midst of hot, dry weather. The grass planted to prevent erosion of the 3,600-foot-long dam holding back one of the city's main water sources is indirectly producing minor erosion on its own, prompting the city to seek contractors to fix the problem. The city seeks to restore the dam back to its original slope on the dry side of the structure, repairing erosion problems and other maintenance issues noted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and to apply a system to protect the dam against future erosion.

Source: <http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2012-09-18/feral-hogs-wildlife-blamed-erosion-problem-lake-alan-henry#.UFnOE67xrls>

56. *September 18, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* – (Florida) **Army Corps to release water from Lake Okeechobee.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it will begin releasing water from Lake Okeechobee in Florida to manage the rising lake level. The water release is scheduled to begin September 19 and will continue until further notice. Lake Okeechobee's 70-year-old dike is considered one of the country's most at risk of failing. To ease the strain on the dike, the Corps tries to keep Lake Okeechobee between 12.5 and 15.5 feet above sea level. The lake was 15.11 feet above sea level September 18. Starting with low-level lake water releases, as the Corps proposes, should lessen the potential environmental damage to coast estuaries that can come from dumping lake water out to sea. Strengthening the lake's dike and building more reservoirs and other storm-water water-storage alternatives proposed for Everglades' restoration are ways to avoid dumping lake water out to sea for flood control. Sugar cane growers and other south Florida farmers rely on the lake for irrigation during the typically dry winter and spring.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/palm-beach/fl-lakeo-release-20120918,0,3631017.story>

57. *September 18, WLBT 3 Jackson* – (Mississippi) **Repairs on dam at Lake Tangipahoa underway.** Lake Tangipahoa in Pike County, Mississippi, was drained from 700 acres to approximately 80 acres in a massive pumping operation to get pressure off of the dam that was damaged by rain from Hurricane Isaac. WLBT 3 Jackson reported September 18 that two large sections of dirt slid off of the dam during the rains. An emergency drain pipe was being used to control the level of the lake. The park manager at Percy Quin State Park was optimistic the dam could be repaired by December. A huge trench was dug that will be used as a new spillway to allow future rains to drain from the lake, which is fed by the Tangipahoa River.

Source: <http://www.wlbt.com/story/19578860/repairs-on-dam-at-lake-tangipahoa-underway>

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